

EPA Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Buffalo, NY

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA awarded the City of Buffalo supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Economic decline and contaminated industrial sites have negatively impacted the quality of life for Buffalo communities. The city of 328,000 residents bears a disproportionate number of contaminated sites—more than 60 in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) and more than 20 on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites. Fear regarding possible contamination is attached to countless other properties in the city.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Pilot's objective is to use the supplemental assistance to retain its Brownfields Manager and, thereby, continue its activities as a cooperative effort working to promote the safe, productive, and appropriate reuse of the city's brownfields. This effort will contribute to ensuring a safer, cleaner environment, as well as creating and promoting new, high-quality residential, commercial, and industrial acreage. The overall strategy of the Pilot is to provide

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Buffalo, New York

Date of Announcement:
March 2000

Amount: \$150,000

Profile: The Pilot targets public and private properties that have near term development potential and are located in areas needing revitalization.

Contacts:

City of Buffalo
Department of Community
Development
(716) 851-5633

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 2
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

technical assistance and support during the environmental assessment phase of planning and development projects, accomplished by conducting or leveraging Phase I and Phase II assessments and more extensive environmental investigations as warranted.

The Pilot is guided by the Buffalo Brownfields Task Force, comprising county and city department officials; regional state regulatory agency officials; a member of the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice; representatives from the city's official Buffalo Environmental Management Commission; members of the banking, legal, real estate, business, and university communities; and the general public.

To accomplish these objectives, the Pilot plans to:

- Address new sites as identified through interest by the city's planning and development agencies;
- Communicate Pilot activities and results to the appropriate stakeholders for decision making on property redevelopment; and
- Conduct or leverage Phase I and Phase II assessments and more extensive environmental investigations as warranted.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.